**Reduction in interest rate for housing loans**

2980. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to reduce the interest rate for housing loans advanced by nationalised banks;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c) Lending rates of commercial banks for all categories of loans including housing, are prescribed by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from time to time. RBI has decided to reduce effective from March 2, 1992 the leanding rate on credit limits of over Rs. 2 lakh by one percentage point, from 20.0 percent (minimum) to 19.0 percent (minimum). The lending rates are fixed by Reserve Bank of India keeping in view of the monetary and credit developments and the inflationary pressures in the economy.

**Seminar on NRI investment**

2981. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that a review of the various schemes to attract NRI investments, including the Development Bond Schemes was made at a 2-day seminar in New Delhi, in the first week of January this year, on "India and the people of Indian origin, Cooperation for Mutual Gain";

(b) if so, what were the main observations and criticisms of Government's schemes and policy made at the Seminar; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c) Government have not organised any seminar in the first week of January, 1992 and have not been associated with any such seminar, Government attaches great importance to NRI investments, and its policies are framed from time to time to make NRI investments more attractive.

**Treating Indian citizens at par with NRI's**

2982. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to treat the Indian citizens who wish to invest in productive activity in the country at par with the NRI's;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the decision if any, taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

**निर्धन और कमजोर वर्गों को ऋण**

2983. **मोहम्मद अफज़ल उर्फ मीम अफज़ल:** क्या **वित्त** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों से निर्धन और कमजोर वर्गों के लोगों को पांच हजार रुपए तक का कर्ज नाममात्र ब्याज पर दिया जाता है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो देश के सहकारी बैंकों में यह सुविधा उपलब्ध न होने के क्या कारण हैं?

**वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री दलबीर सिंह)** (क) और (ख) सरकारी क्षेत्र के सभी बैंकों तथा सभी गैर-राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों द्वारा जिनकी अग्रणी जिलों में अग्रणी बैंक सम्बन्धी जिम्मेदारियां हैं, विभेदक ब्याज दर योजना चलाई जा रही है। विभेदक ब्याज दर (डी०आर०आई० योजना के तहत, वाणिज्यिक बैंकों द्वारा आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर वर्गों के पात्र ऋण-कर्ताओं को जिनके उत्पाद संबंधी प्रयासों से वार्षिक आय शहरों तथा अर्ध-शहरी क्षेत्रों में 7,200 रुपए तथा ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में 6,500 रुपए तक है, 4 प्रतिशत की रियायती दरों पर ऋण दिए जाते हैं।